

## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-47-00

August 8, 2000

The following is offered in response to your letter in which you request a formal interpretation of Section 1002.1 of the 1997 International Plumbing Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

**Question 1:** Are floor drains considered “fixtures” as defined in the code, and if they are, do they require traps and venting per the code?

**Answer 1:** Yes, a floor drain is considered a fixture, but depending on their use, they may or may not require a trap and vent. If the floor drain is connected to a sanitary system it would require a trap and vent. If the floor drain were used as an area drain and was connected to the storm sewer it would not require a trap or vent.

**Question 2:** Do parking garage deck floor drains meet the definition of “fixture”, and therefore require traps?

**Answer 2:** Yes, the parking garage deck floor drains meet the definition of a fixture, but the answer again is the same as Question #1. Floor drains are not required except in public laundries, central washing facilities, and boiler rooms.

If a system of floor drains is connected to a sanitary system it can be inexpensively vented by means of a combination drain and vent system per Section 912 of the 1997 International Plumbing Code (IPC).

The fact of the matter is that the 1997 IPC is silent on the required connection of a floor drain in an open parking garage to sanitary or storm system and leaves the final determination to the building official (see commentary “General Comments, page 379). A simple solution designed by several engineers has been to treat the system as a storm system (no traps) and discharge to the storm system with an oil separator installed before the connection to the storm system.